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Towards the Festival in Pyongyang

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Towards the Festival in Pyongyang

Time flies. It seems that only yesterday Moscow was watching the participants in and guests of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students hold spirited discussions, friendly meetings, rallies of solidarity, and international concerts. Today young men and women all over the world are looking forward to the next world youth forum, which will open in the summer of 1989 in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

There is a four-year interval between festivals—quite a short time, historically speaking. Yet within that time the world has changed. So have our notions of it, of the tendencies and processes underlying social development.

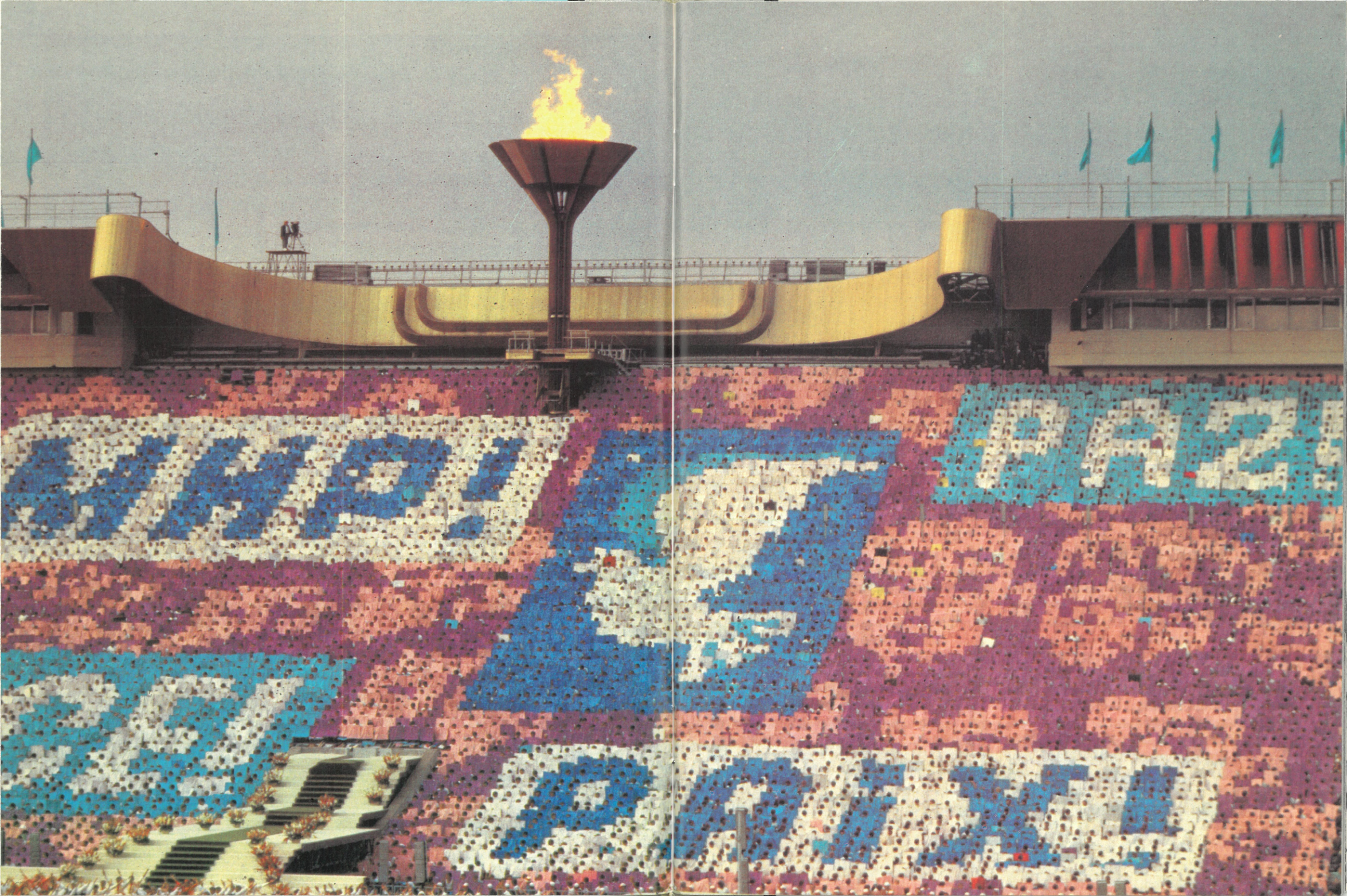
As a result of the in-depth and comprehensive analysis of our time made by the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (February-March 1986), the Soviet state formulated a new foreign-policy concept. It is based on the understanding that, despite the contradictory nature of the world we live in and the existence of countries with differing social systems, our world is not only interrelated and interdependent but also integrated.

Proof of this is the growing internationalization of world economic ties, the all-embracing nature of the scientific and technological revolution, and the ecological crisis the planet is going through. What is more, it has become obvious that no state, however great and whatever its level of economic development, can cope single-handedly with the problems rightly called global.

If we are to save civilization on earth, we must stop viewing the world through the prism of confrontation and place human interests above the interests of individual countries, classes and social groups.

This approach is epitomized by the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles signed in December 1987 by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan. The significance of this treaty transcends the bounds of Soviet-American relations: it marks the

The first practical step towards a nuclear-free world was the signing of the Treaty Between the USSR and the USA on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. In the photo: General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan sign the protocol on the exchange of ratification documents. Moscow, June 1988



In accordance with the Russian tradition, Moscow met the participants of the 12th World Festival with bread and salt

At the festival young people from different countries expressed solidarity with the heroic struggle of the people of Nicaragua

first practical step towards nuclear disarmament, towards implementing the programme proposed by the Soviet Union for creating a nuclear-free world by the year 2000.

That countries with different social systems can and must cooperate in order to improve the international climate is confirmed by the accords reached on a political settlement to the situation around Afghanistan, the guarantors of which are the USSR and the United States.

These two examples vividly show that there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence, that new political thinking is paving a way for itself through the thick of obsolete stereotypes.

It would seem that no one needs any proof that nuclear weapons are immoral, that interference in the internal affairs of other countries is impermissible, that international conflicts should be resolved only by peaceful means, that it is necessary to avert an ecological catastrophe, eliminate backwardness in underdeveloped countries, and wipe out starvation and disease.

But even though the acuteness and complexity of the problems facing mankind are generally acknowledged, the task of finding common approaches towards resolving them proves to be anything but simple.

Here the efforts of diplomats and statesmen alone are not enough. The scientific community and the public at large must be involved in the solution of these tasks.

Although international relations have not yet become relations between nations in the true sense of the word, mass movements are having an ever greater impact on the pattern and intensity of international ties. The worldwide festival movement of youth and students vividly testifies to this.

The future belongs to the young. Over the next few decades young people will have to tackle the vital issues facing humanity. Are they ready to assume responsibility for civilization's future? To answer this question, let us analyze the processes taking place in the international youth movement.

Young people, their organizations and associations have been playing an ever greater role in solving many key political and socio-economic tasks of world development. Not only because many problems—whether they be the establishment of mutually beneficial economic relations, the abolition of racism and apartheid, environmental protection, the supply of energy resources, elimination of unemployment or democratization of education—affect, either directly or indirectly, the rights and interests of young people. What is even more important is that traits of new political thinking are becoming ever more distinct in the international youth movement: the movement as a whole, and each of its participants

Envoys of the planet's youth came to Moscow with the dream of a peaceful sky, happiness and friendship. A children's drawing contest and a dramatized performance with the participation of an Austrian rock group were devoted to the theme of peace. Angela Davis, an American public figure who was among honorary guests at the festival, also spoke of peace

individually, are beginning to realize their responsibility for the future of the Earth.

This realization is best seen in the struggle for peace, in the efforts to remove the nuclear threat, end the arms race and proceed to real disarmament.

To be sure, the various political as well as non-political (pacifist, religious, environmentalist, etc.) youth organizations have differing notions of how we should move towards a nuclear-free and non-violent world. But the chief thing is that there is a growing realization of the need to pool the efforts of all those who believe that man's most important right is the right to live.

Over the last few years it has been easier for young men and women from

different countries to find a common language: outdated dogmas and stereotypes are breaking down—a fact the 12th World Festival confirmed. Alongside such traditional topics as anti-imperialist solidarity, the struggle for peace and disarmament, and protection of the rights and interests of youth and students, the agenda of the Moscow forum featured such issues as the contribution of youth

The festival's anti-war rallies, meetings at the clubs of national delegations and with veterans of the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945), and international labour endeavours were unforgettable

organizations to the activities of the United Nations, to the search for mutual understanding, and to the promotion of youth exchanges to overcome prejudice and mistrust between peoples.

An important result of the last festival was that there were ample opportunities to discuss how to direct the power, energy and genius of man not at irrational destruction but at constructive work and the solution of the most acute problems of our time, such as famine, poverty and disease.

A specific feature of the festival movement in recent years was that its political spectrum had broadened to include such associations as the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY), the Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC), the European Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth (EFLRY), La Jeunesse nordique du centre (the Centrist Youth of the North), and youth and students' organizations of developing countries. Their readiness to cooperate at the national level with representatives of communist and other left-wing youth organizations, and to work together to set up national preparatory committees, testified to a great change in attitudes. To defend one's "own" ideals no longer meant exposing one's opponent. The dialogue was characterized by open debates and democratic discussion of ideological differences.

Hopes that new political thinking will spread far and wide are rightly linked with the active role of the rising generation. This is due to the fact that young people are less likely than older generations to cling to established stereotypes. They are more responsive to everything that is new and progressive, and more dynamic in reacting to the contradictions of reality.

These qualities fully manifest themselves in the development of international youth cooperation, and particularly in the international festival movement.

World festivals of youth and students have today become a unique mechanism for strengthening and expanding cooperation and mutual understanding, and for promoting a dialogue among youth organizations of East and West, North and South, among all the forces united by a common responsibility for the fate of our planet.

Interesting talks, music, songs, new acquaintances, exchange of addresses, street marches, and a one-mile race in which anyone who wished could participate—all added brilliance to the festival

WORLD FESTIVALS OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS

The 1st Festival in Prague, 1947. It brought together 17,000 participants from 71 countries. The festival's motto was "Youth Unite in the Struggle for Lasting Peace!"

The 2nd Festival in Budapest, 1949. 20,000 participants from 82 countries. The festival's motto: "Youth Unite! Forward for Lasting Peace, Democracy, the National Independence of Peoples and for a Better Future!"

The 3rd Festival in Berlin, 1951. 26,000 participants from 104 countries. The motto: "Youth Unite Against the Threat of a New War, for Lasting Peace!"

The 4th Festival in Bucharest, 1953. 30,000 participants from 111 countries declared: "We Say No to Death and Devastation!"

The 5th Festival in Warsaw, 1955. 31,000 participants from 114 countries. Its motto (used also in 1957, 59 and 62): "For Peace and Friendship!"

The 6th Festival in Moscow, 1957. 34,000 participants from 131 countries

The 7th Festival in Vienna, 1959. 18,000 participants from 112 countries

The 8th Festival in Helsinki, 1962. 18,000 participants from 137 countries

The 9th Festival in Sofia, 1968. 20,000 participants from 138 countries called: "For Solidarity, Peace and Friendship!"

The 10th Festival in Berlin, 1973. 30,000 participants from 140 countries. Its motto (used also in 1978 and 1985): "For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship!"

The 11th Festival in Havana, 1978. 18,500 participants from 145 countries

The 12th Festival in Moscow, 1985. Over 20,000 participants from 157 countries and West Berlin

МИР-МОСКВА-ФЕСТИВАЛЬ!
RACE ON EARTH AND

FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE ASIAN CONTINENT

All twelve festivals, except the one held in Havana (the 11th World Festival, 1978), took place in European countries. In those days organizational facilities for conducting them were to be found only in Europe. Nevertheless, the growing activities of youth in other regions of the world made it possible to expand the festival movement in geographical terms.

The early stages saw an increasing number of delegations representing young states. But the question of holding the festival somewhere outside the Old World was raised at international and bilateral consultations more and more often.

And after the Moscow Festival, the idea was born of holding a world festival in Asia. Backed by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, and other youth and students' associations, the Socialist Young Workers League of Korea (SYWLK) came forward with the initiative to conduct the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in 1989 in Pyongyang.

The youth organizations of newly free countries saw in that proposal concrete confirmation of the role and significance of the youth movement of Asia, Africa and Latin America in today's world. In addition, holding the festival in Asia will draw the world's attention to this continent's serious socio-economic and political problems. As a matter of fact, since World War II Asia has been the scene of all major military conflicts—the French and then the American aggression in Southeast Asia, the Indo-Pakistani conflicts, and the Iran-Iraq war. And it was in Asia that nuclear weapons were first used. Anxiety about the fate of the region and growing national self-awareness have resulted in the Asian peoples stepping up their struggle against the nuclear threat over the last few years.

The Soviet proposals on measures to ensure security and cooperation among countries of the Asia-Pacific region enjoy wide public support in Asia.

These proposals are actively supported in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which, to develop the concept of regional security and stability, has been taking steps to lower the level of confrontation between the Korean North and South. It has also put forward the idea of creating a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula, and is seeking the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and the dismantling of the foreign military bases there.

The International Preparatory Committee (IPC) of the 13th World Festival held its first meeting in Moscow on February 6, 1987.

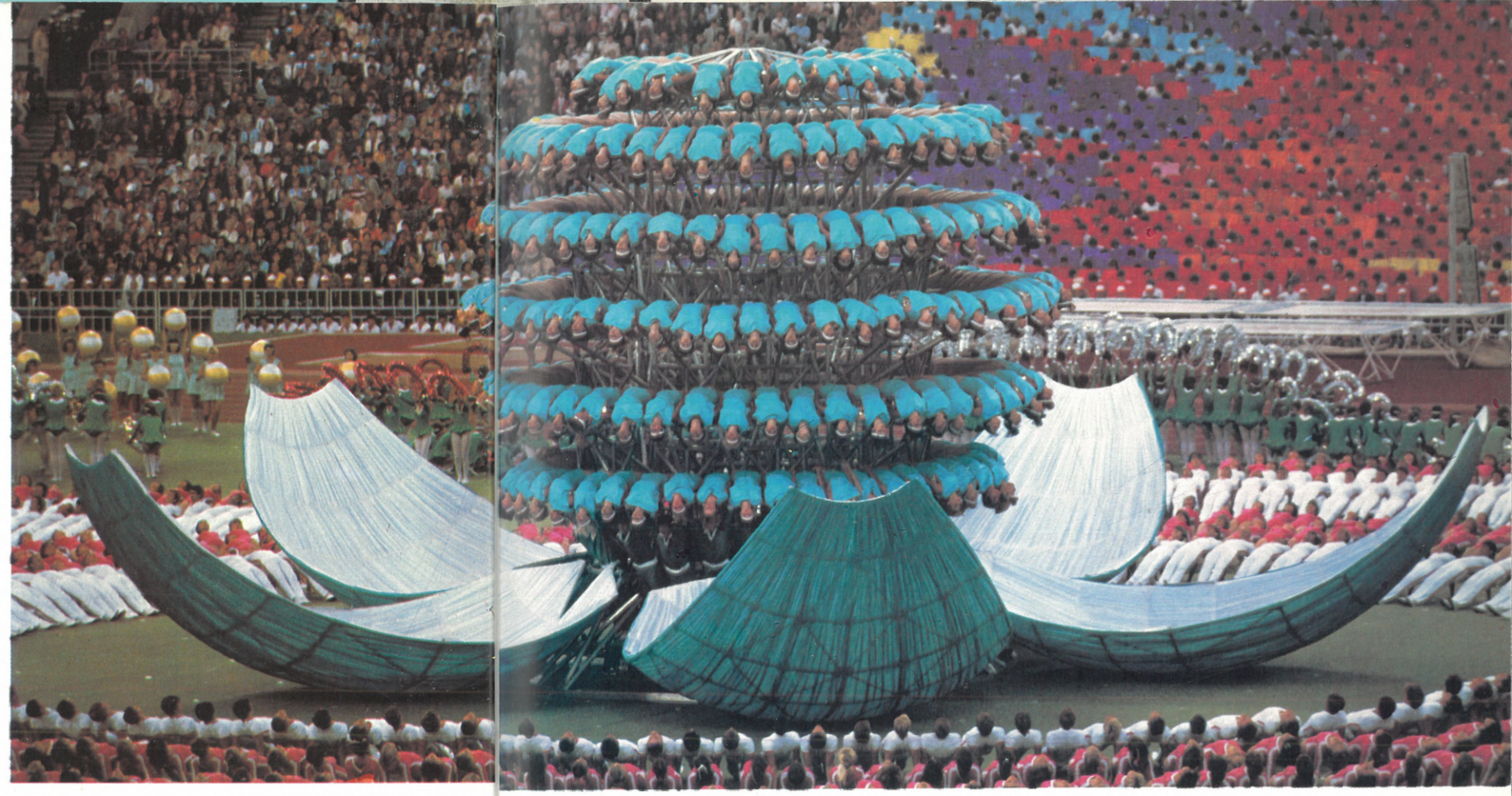
Expressing its approval of the basic trends of development of the world festival movement, the IPC came out for extending the political representation at festivals and for widening the geographical boundaries of previously held festivals. The IPC noted that in doing this the festival traditions should be preserved.

The IPC members expressed their confidence that the holding of the 1989 festival in Asia will promote the development of this mass youth movement, and they supported the proposal that it be held in the city of Pyongyang.

The IPC's first meeting endorsed the motto of the 13th Festival—For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship, the same motto the two preceding festivals had.

Practically all the leading political youth associations involved in the world festival process expressed their readiness to continue their participation in it. This was subsequently confirmed in a number of steps taken and at various international meetings.

The informal consultative meeting held in Cairo in October 1987 and the second meeting of the International Preparatory Committee held in Delhi in May 1988 created important prerequisites for proceeding from discussion of organizational matters to discussion of the political content of the 13th World Festival.



The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea takes over the torch from the Moscow Festival ▶

FOR NEW APPROACHES IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Soviet youth organizations, especially the largest one, the Komsomol (the Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union, which unites more than 38 million young men and women), have always been active participants in the world festival movement. The preparation for and holding of festivals offer a unique opportunity for strengthening and broadening ties and contacts; they enable us to acquire a deeper understanding of the processes taking place in the international youth movement, and to regulate more accurately the course towards cooperation with various political forces.

The 12th World Festival of Youth and Students was a new landmark in the international activities of Soviet youth organizations. And not only because special responsibility rested with its organizers. For the Leninist Komsomol and the Committee of Youth Organizations (CYO) of the USSR, the Moscow festival was a stimulus for elaborating new approaches to the whole system of interaction with overseas youth associations, a kind of test of our own readiness to accept new political thinking. For too long a two-colour perception of the world hung over the youth movement and for too long the principle "He that is not with me is against me" was in action.

On the eve of the 20th Congress of the Leninist Komsomol (April 1987) there was a broad discussion on the tasks and concrete forms and methods of the international activities of Soviet youth organizations. The main line of the Komsomol's international activities was established: more active participation of Soviet youth in the struggle for a nuclear-free world, for the survival of humanity, and for the implementation of the programme for setting up a comprehensive system of international security.

Soviet students say "No!" to war

Today's youth are active and cooperate fruitfully in many areas of political, public and cultural life

The Komsomol took a fundamentally new approach in that it expressed its readiness to engage in the broadest cooperation with all youth associations—both political and non-political—making a contribution to the common efforts to humanize international relations and guarantee the right of every person to live in conditions of peace, freedom and respect for human dignity. The 20th Congress of the Komsomol also formulated the basic principles for promoting more vigorous joint and parallel actions in the youth movement aimed at promoting a dialogue of equal partners in international relations. The point is to concentrate more on what unites rather than on what divides young people of diverse political views and beliefs.

Friendship and all-round cooperation link the Leninist Komsomol with the youth of the socialist countries, with their socio-political organizations. This is due to their common ideology, world outlook and tasks of renovating socialism. On the basis of a coordinated policy the fraternal youth unions of the socialist states are working consistently to deepen mutual understanding and trust between the various political forces; they are using new forms of cooperation in keeping with the spirit of the times. The elaboration of joint approaches to the urgent problems of the youth movement is combined with a broad exchange of experience, with a search for lines of activity that would take into account the priorities of each of the organizations concerned. But no matter how those priorities may change, the most important thing remains unchanged—their active and constructive stand on issues of preserving peace, averting nuclear war, and securing the vital rights and interests of the young generation.

The Leninist Komsomol has always considered itself to be an integral part of the international Communist youth movement. The presence in the movement of diverse opinions and approaches to the urgent problems of our time does not mean that the young Communists are disunited. The frequent and broad discussions on problems of the theory and practice of the youth movement make it possible not only to bring out various viewpoints, but also to work out a platform for joint actions.

Fraternal organizations such as the Socialist Working Youth League (Federal Republic of Germany), the Communist Youth of Greece, the Italian Communist Youth Federation, and many others enjoy great prestige in the youth movement. Their consistent and energetic work among the masses of the youth has enabled them to organize cooperation with youth associations representing other political trends, and to become a real force

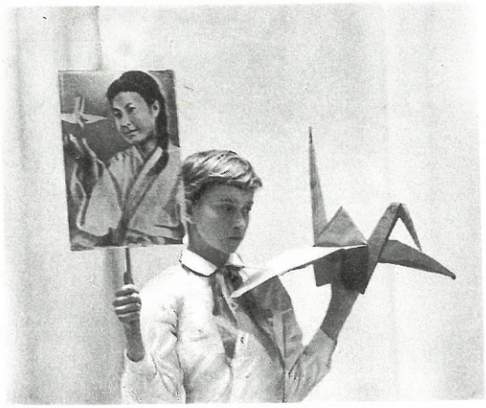
in the struggle of young people for peace, democracy and social progress.

An important line in the international activities of Soviet youth organizations is cooperation with revolutionary-democratic youth leagues of newly free and developing countries of progressive orientation. Their role and influence are growing before our very eyes. The balance of power in the youth and students' movement largely depends on their stand. We regard them as equal partners fighting consistently against imperialism and reaction, for political, social and economic independence.

Soviet young people have a sense of solidarity with fighters for national and social emancipation, and have always been ready to come to their aid. The collection of medicines for the Vietnamese fighting against the American aggressors, and of school stationery for the children of Angola, the remittance of funds for the construction of a children's home in Nicaragua, and the deliveries of food for the famine-stricken population in Ethiopia—these are only a few examples of such support. Today new and more effective forms of manifesting solidarity are being searched for. One form is to send young doctors, teachers, builders and groups of students to work in de-

The collection of signatures to an appeal for all peace-loving forces of the planet and for the youth of the world to work to eliminate the threat of nuclear war (top right), and to the Copenhagen Appeal, adopted in October 1986 at the World Congress devoted to the International Year of Peace (centre right). Soviet and American schoolchildren in Arbat, one of Moscow's main tourist attractions

A live pigeon and a paper crane. The pigeon symbolizes peace; the crane, the victims of the US atomic bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945



veloping countries. For instance, every year a team of the best workers from Soviet student work teams go to Nicaragua to help harvest coffee.

Soviet young people are making an ever greater contribution to the organization and conduct of major international undertakings and campaigns, such as the World Disarmament Campaign sponsored by the United Nations or the formation of an anti-nuclear coalition. Work on these issues is coordinated with other political forces, primarily with young Socialists and Social Democrats.

It should be emphasized that in many West European countries Social Democratic youth unions represent leading political associations enjoying the support of their parties as well as enormous prestige in the youth movement. Such youth unions are the closest allies of young Communists in the struggle for peace. In many ways our views on the solution of the global problems of our time coincide. The constructive positions of the majority of young Socialists and Social Democrats on issues of curbing the arms race, of disarmament and international security, and the positive trends towards cooperation with young Communists at both the national and international levels open up fresh prospects for broadening ties and contacts with them.

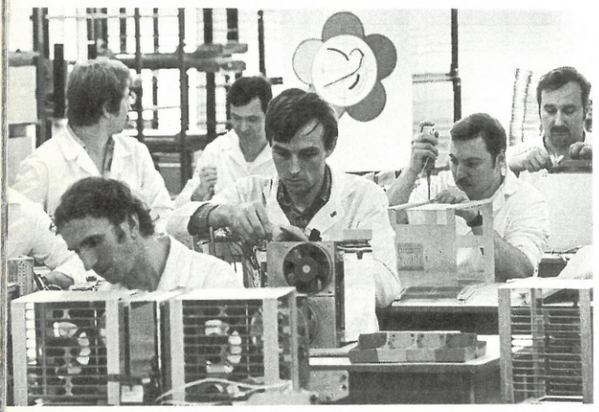
The desire to preserve world civilization and ensure humanity's survival has compelled the various political forces to cast aside their ideological differences. These differences once hampered the establishment of relations with bourgeois democratic youth organizations. But today, when humanity has only one choice to make—either to survive together or to perish together—each side must not only display a new way of thinking, but also abandon outdated stereotypes forever. Though abandoning these stereotypes isn't easy, it is a task dictated by the times.

Awareness of this situation led to the establishment of a dialogue between Soviet youth organizations and young Liberals and Radicals, Christian Democrats and Conservatives. The foundation for this dialogue is not so firm yet, and it can be strengthened only through joint efforts, by showing respect for the viewpoints of the partners.

A significant example in this respect is the evolution of relations with youth organizations in the United States. The development of ties with such associations as the American Council of Young Political Leaders, the Centre for Soviet-American Dialogue and the Young Men's Christian Association of the USA shows that for all the differences in the assessment of the causes of the present international situation, it is necessary to make a joint search for solutions to the existing problems based on trust and mutual

understanding, and not on suspicion and confrontation.

We are optimistic about the prospects for the European youth movement. The all-European structure for cooperation of youth and students is active once again. The concept of a common European home is increasingly reflected in bilateral and multilateral relations among youth groups. It has to be admitted that the youth organizations of the Old World at one point obviously began lagging behind the trends which began appearing at the level of state relations. To close this gap, more flexibility and realism was required of youth organizations of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, as well as of their West European partners. All the prerequisites now exist for youth to make a contribution to the enhancement of all-European security and cooperation, to the securing of reliable guarantees of the fulfilment of the accords reached at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975. The course worked out by the 20th Congress of the Leninist Komsomol towards promoting contacts and exchanges among young people on a mass scale and towards developing cooperation in the humanitarian sphere should also facilitate this. It is young people who can and must overcome the existing prejudices and help stamp out the enemy image.



A desire to live and work in peace and to ensure the happiness of children unites the youth of various countries and various political convictions

Issues pertaining to the development of bilateral relations are closely linked with international cooperation and with the activities of the Komsomol and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR in such associations as the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students. The largest and most representative international democratic organizations of youth and students, the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students never stop working to update the forms and methods of their activities. Greater orientation towards the needs and priorities of member organizations and correlation of their interests with those of the democratic youth movement as a whole are helping the Federation and the Union to organize their activities more flexibly and effectively. Over the years of their existence the Federation and the Union have grown into large and prestigious associations.

They represent progressive youth and students' organizations in more than a hundred countries all over the world. The activities of the Federation and the Union are recognized not only by the international youth movement, but also by the United Nations, UNESCO and other

intergovernmental structures. These ties and contacts enable the Federation and the Union to promptly inform the world community of the viewpoints of democratic youth and students' organizations on various urgent problems, to discuss and search for ways of solving the younger generation's problems jointly with the governments of the member states of the United Nations.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students were the initiators of the world festival movement. Mostly due to their efforts this movement has become an important element in the cooperation and interaction of national, regional and international youth organizations of differing political, philosophical and ideological orientations.

* * *

Our overseas partners often ask us: What has changed over the last few years in the approach of Soviet youth organizations to their international activities? The answer is both simple and complex. Simple because for more than seventy years now their activities have been based on the fundamental principles of the foreign policy formulated by Lenin in the first days of the October Revolution in the Decree on Peace. Complex because every moment in history leaves its own unique imprint upon the development of international relations, because the processes taking place in the present-day world sometimes require immediate solutions, and, moreover, solutions unprecedented in the history of human civilization. Indeed, the novelty of new political thinking lies in the fact that it must be responsive to the real changes taking place in the world we live in—a contradictory but in many ways interrelated and integral world.

The second half of the 1980s will go down in history as a time when humanity's hopes for a guaranteed future were renewed. This is due, in part, to the contribution of young people and all the forces participating in the development of the world festival movement.

I vote for peace

Камышанов Виктор Иванович,
Павлов Олег Эдмундович

НАВСТРЕЧУ ФЕСТИВАЛЮ
В ПХЕНЬЯНЕ

на английском языке

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